

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended):** A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising

at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 10 to 40% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the content of the compound represented by the general formula (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9) and (IIC-10) being from 10 to 40% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9) and (IIC-10) being from 45 to 70% by mass,

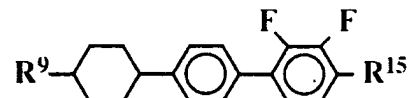
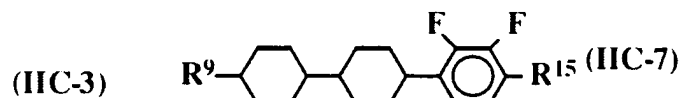
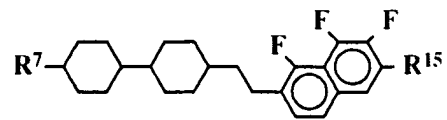
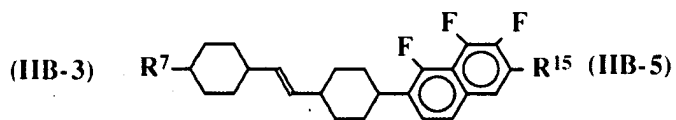
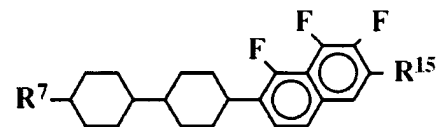
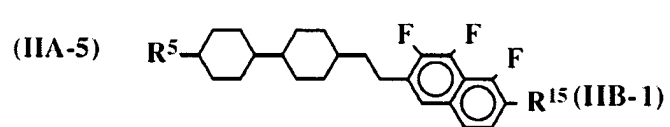
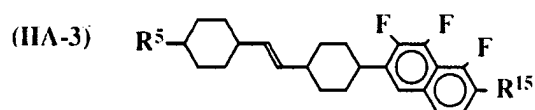
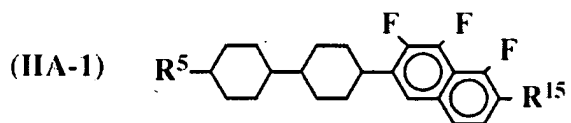
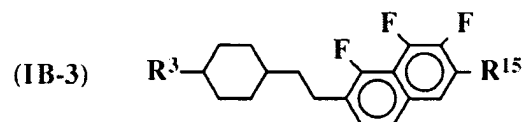
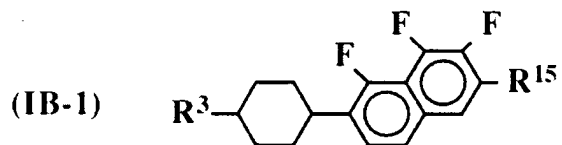
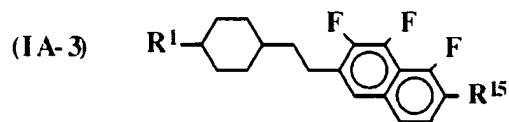
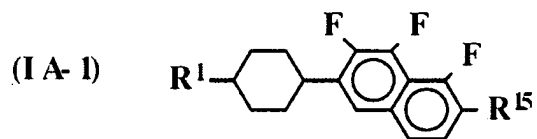
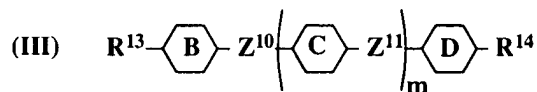
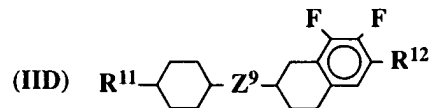
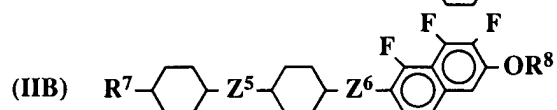
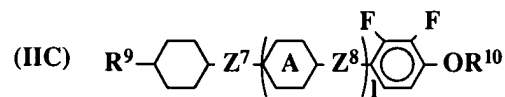
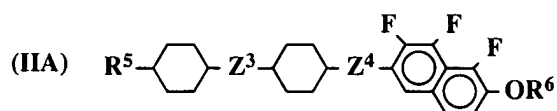
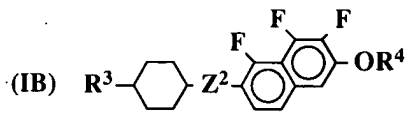
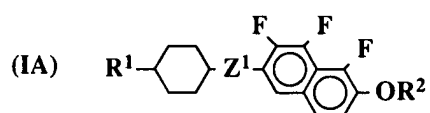
the total content of at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and

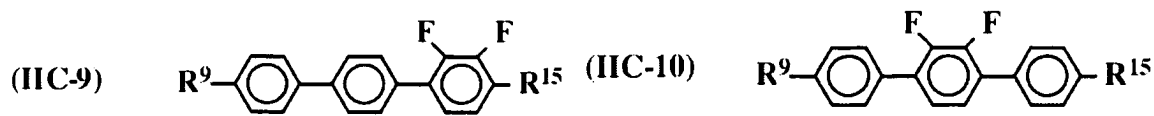
a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass,

wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3,

a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature ( $T_{N-I}$ ) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and

a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:





wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more  $\text{CH}_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-$  or  $-\text{COO}-$ , while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

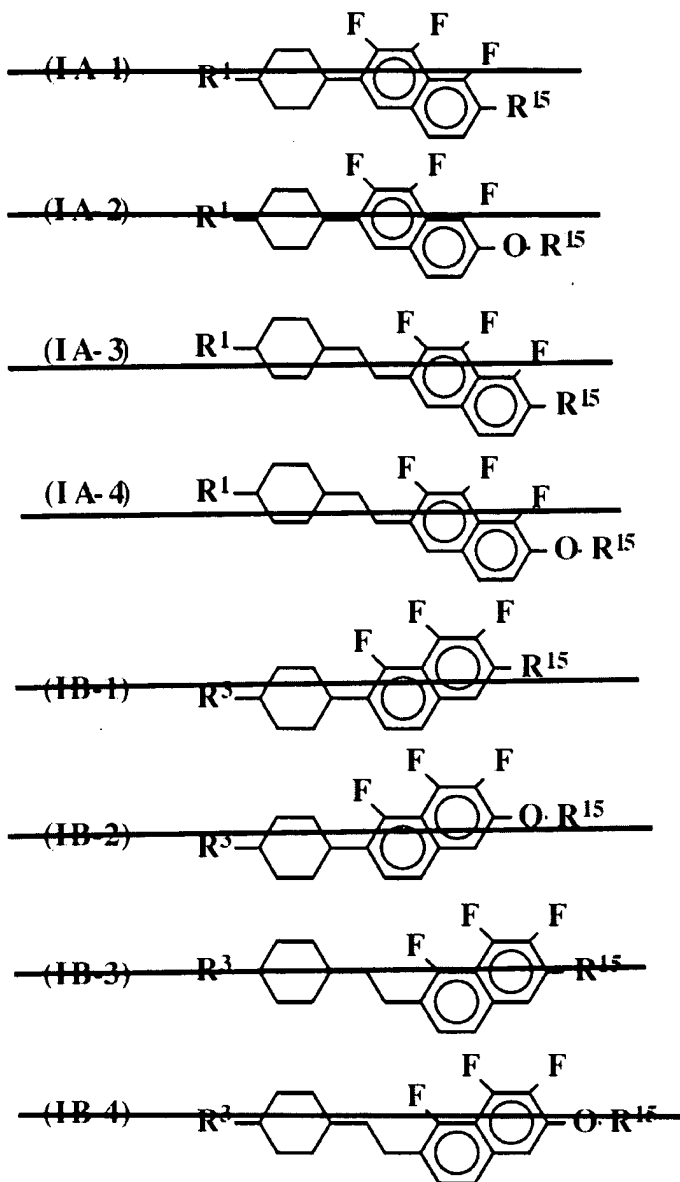
$R^2$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^{10}$  each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more  $\text{CH}_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, ~~or said alkoxy group~~, said alkenyl group ~~or said alkenyloxy group~~, may be substituted with  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-$  or  $-\text{COO}-$ , while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

$Z^1$  to  $Z^6$  and  $Z^9$  to  $Z^{11}$  each independently represents a single bond,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ,  $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{OCH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{COO}-$ , or  $-\text{OCO}-$ ;

$Z^7$  and  $Z^8$  each independently represents a single bond,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ,  $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ , or  $-\text{OCH}_2-$ ; l and m represents 0 or 1;

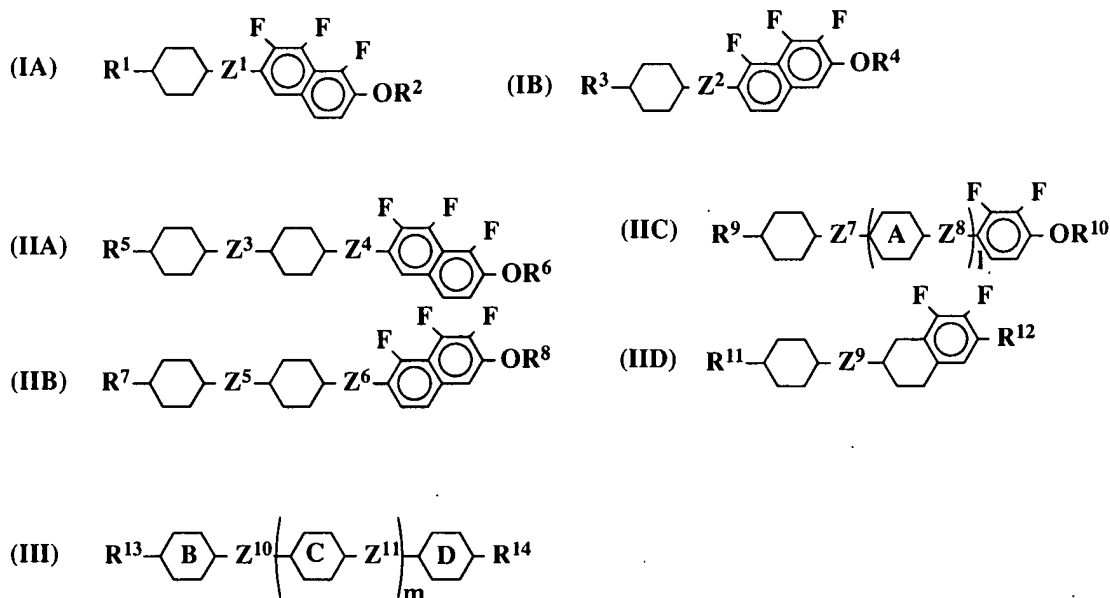
A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and

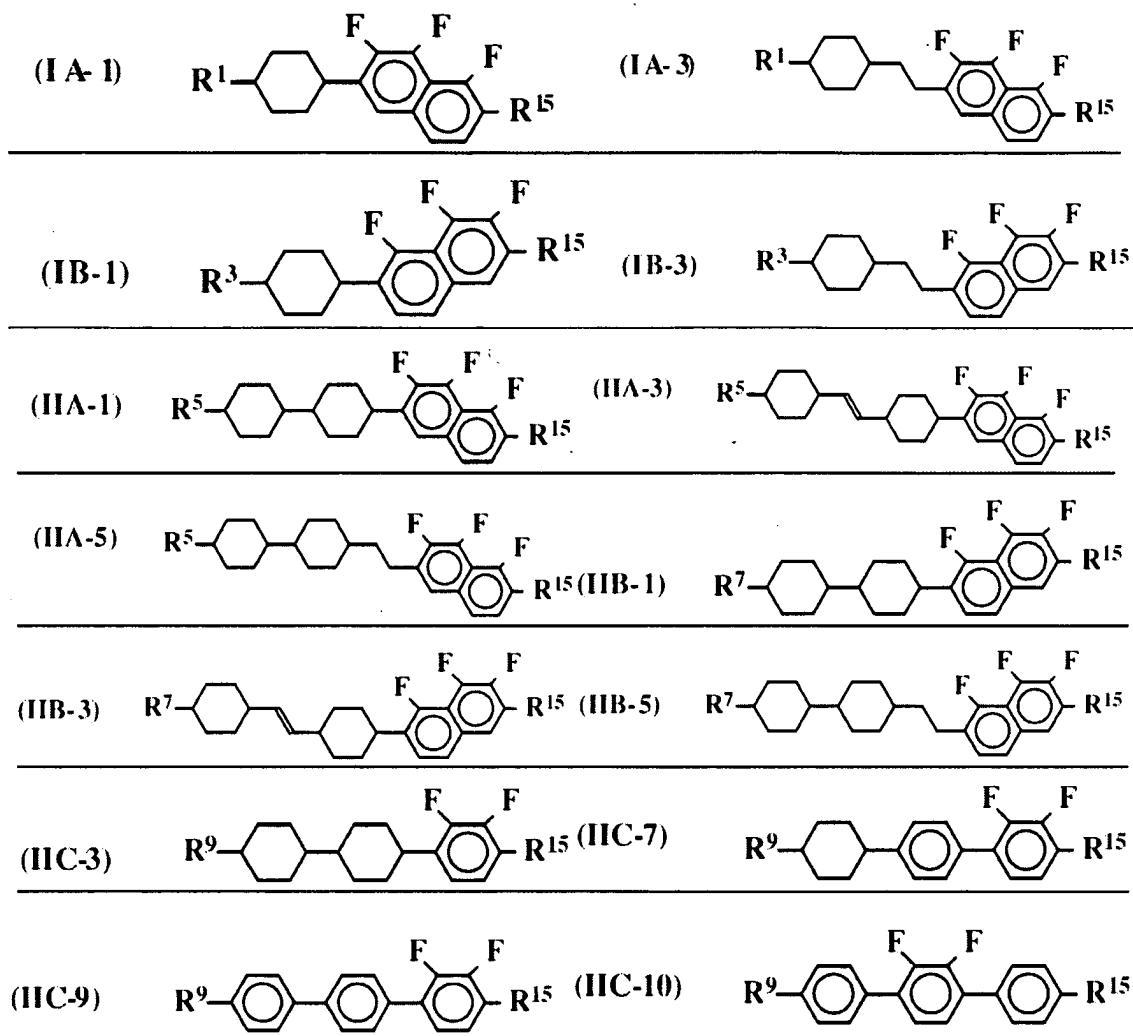
B, C and D each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group, ~~and~~



wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with  $-O-$ ,  $CO$  or  $COO-$ , while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and  $R^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

**Claim 2 (Currently Amended):** A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 25 to 60% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3) and (IIB-5), being from 35 to 65% by mass, the total content of at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 ~~35~~ to 65% by mass, wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature ( $T_{N-I}$ ) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:



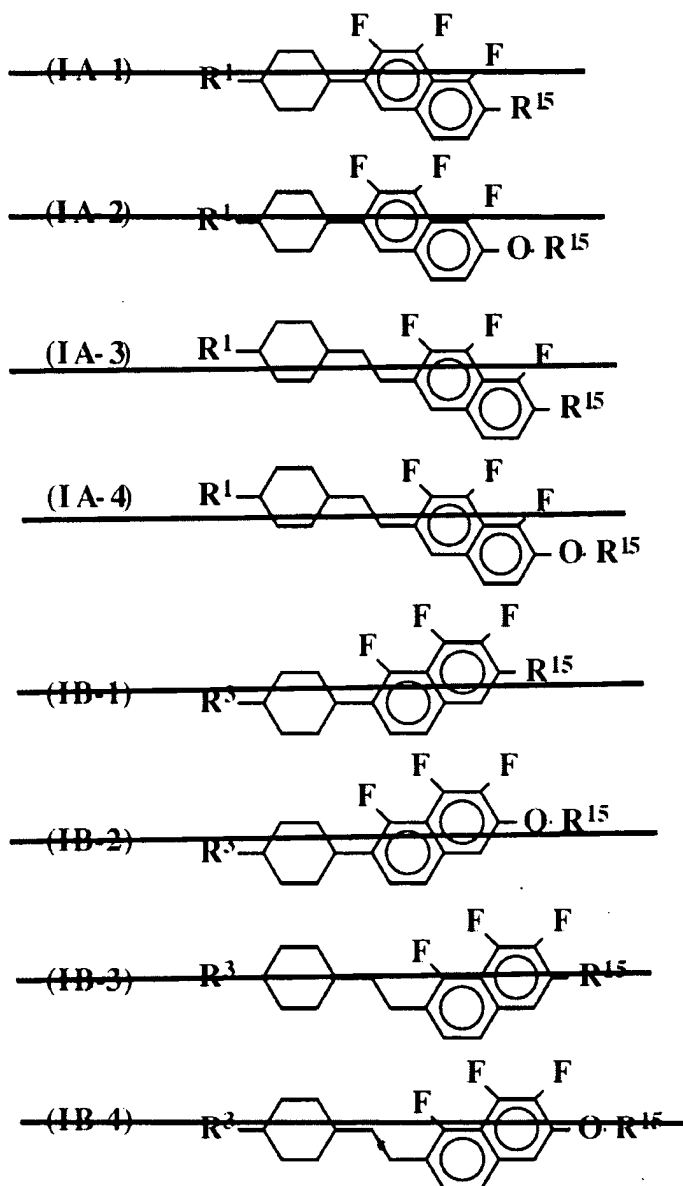


wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups,

which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

$Z^1$  to  $Z^6$  and  $Z^9$  to  $Z^{11}$  each independently represents a single bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CH-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>-, -CF<sub>2</sub>O-, -COO-, or -OCO-;  $Z^7$  and  $Z^8$  each independently represents a single bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CH-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-, or -OCH<sub>2</sub>-; l and m represent 0 or 1; A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and B, C and D each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group, ~~and~~



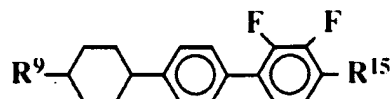
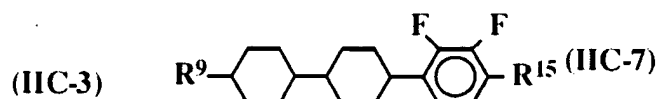
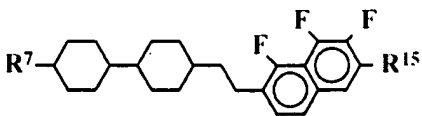
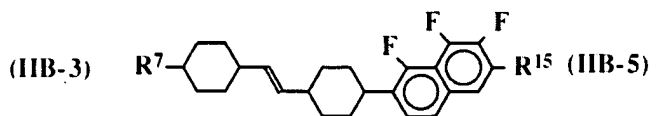
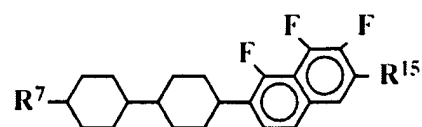
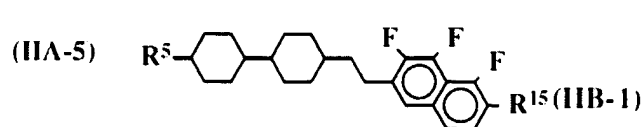
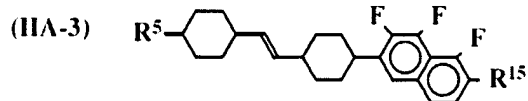
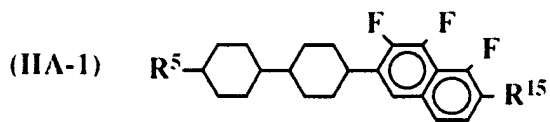
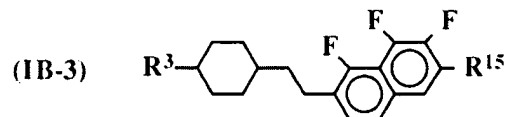
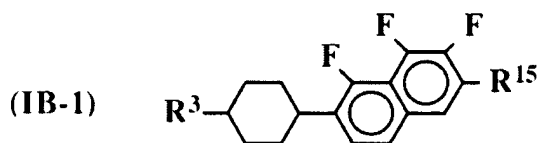
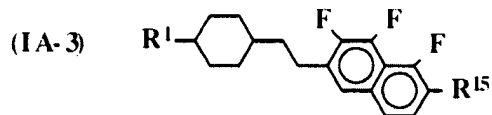
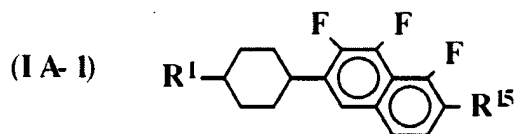
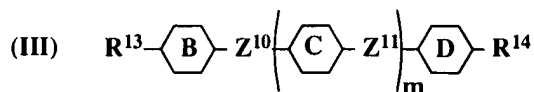
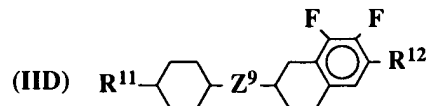
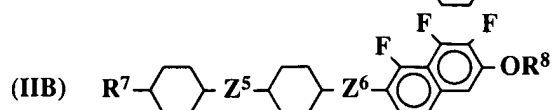
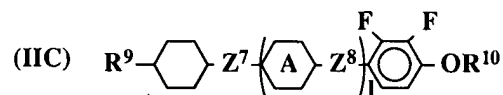
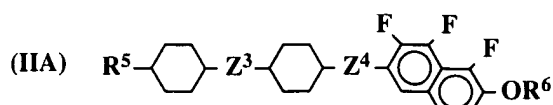
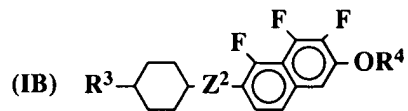
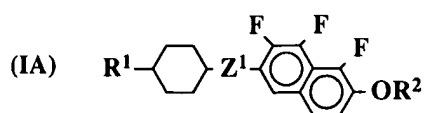
wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, CO or COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

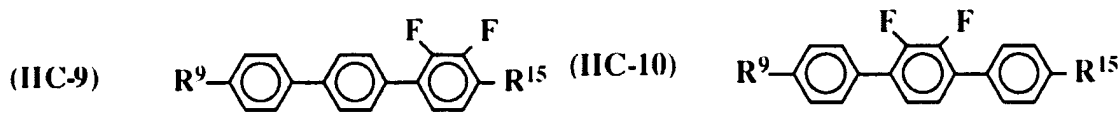
R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.



**Claim 3 (Currently Amended):** A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising at least one compound

selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 10 ~~20~~ to 70% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds selected from the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3) and (IIB-5), being from 20 to 60% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 30 to 60% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 ~~70~~ to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass, wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature ( $T_{N-I}$ ) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:

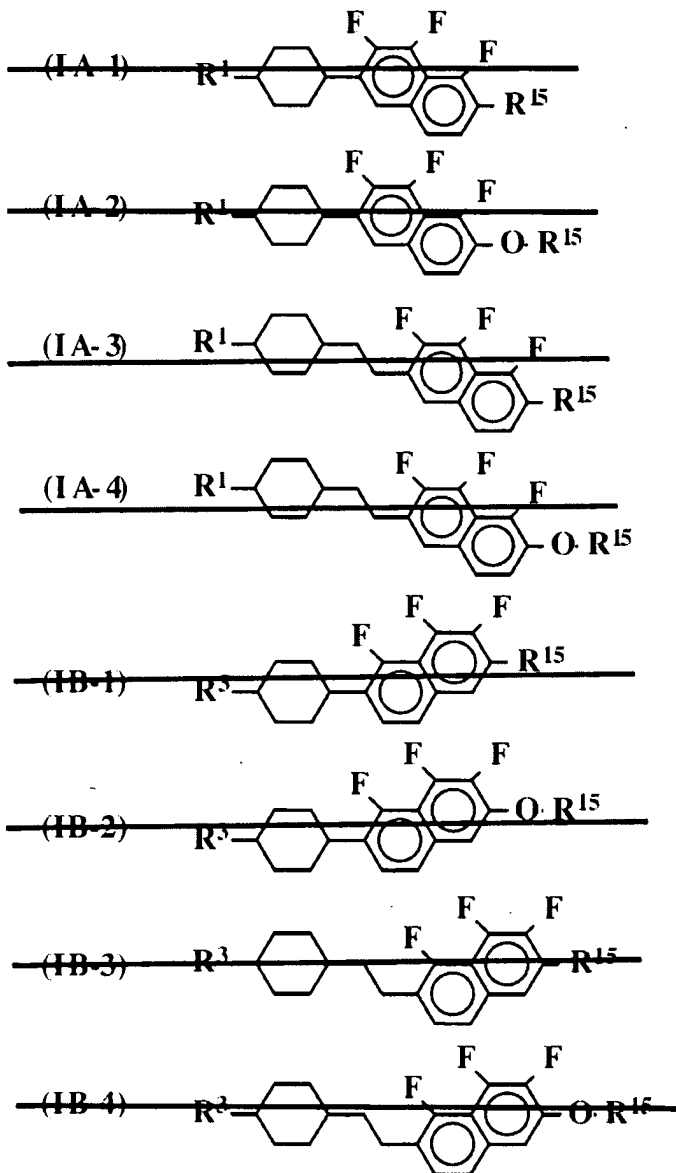




wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with  $-O-$ ,  $-CO-$  or  $-COO-$ , while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

$R^2$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^{10}$  each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, ~~or said alkoxy group~~, said alkenyl group ~~or said alkenyloxy group~~, may be substituted with  $-O-$ ,  $-CO-$  or  $-COO-$ , while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

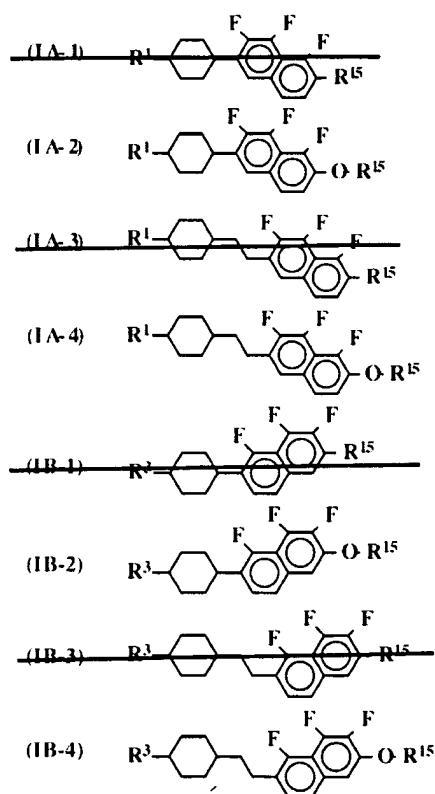
$Z^1$  to  $Z^6$  and  $Z^9$  to  $Z^{11}$  each independently represents a single bond,  $-CH_2CH_2-$ ,  $-CH=CH-$ ,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$ ,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2O-$ ,  $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2-$ ,  $-CH=CHCH_2CH_2-$ ,  $-CH_2CH_2CH=CH-$ ,  $-C\equiv C-$ ,  $-CH_2O-$ ,  $-OCH_2-$ ,  $-CF_2O-$ ,  $-COO-$ , or  $-OCO-$ ;  $Z^7$  and  $Z^8$  each independently represents a single bond,  $-CH_2CH_2-$ ,  $-CH=CH-$ ,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$ ,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2O-$ ,  $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2-$ ,  $-CH=CHCH_2CH_2-$ ,  $-CH_2CH_2CH=CH-$ ,  $-C\equiv C-$ ,  $-CH_2O-$ , or  $-OCH_2-$ ; l and m represent 0 or 1; A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and B, C and D each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group, ~~and~~



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

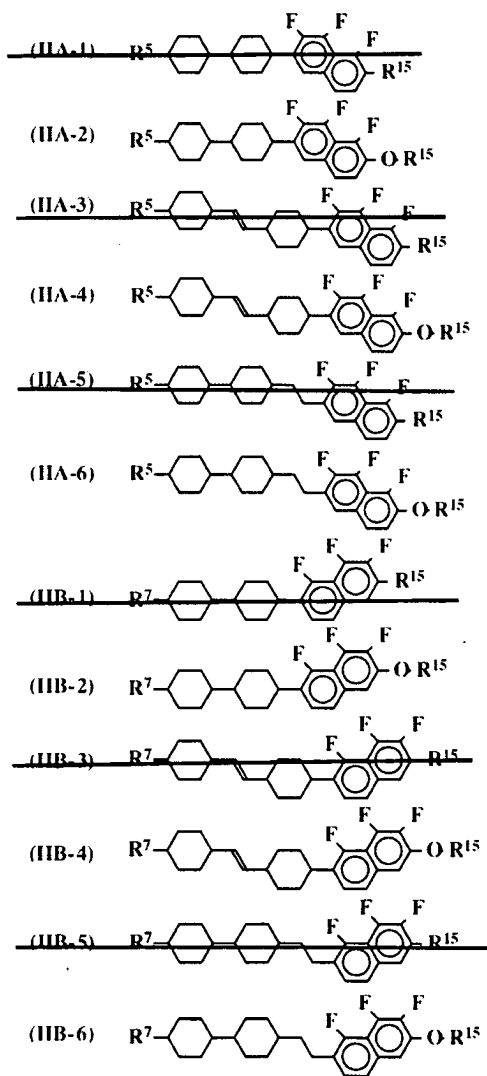
**Claim 4 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

**Claim 5 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

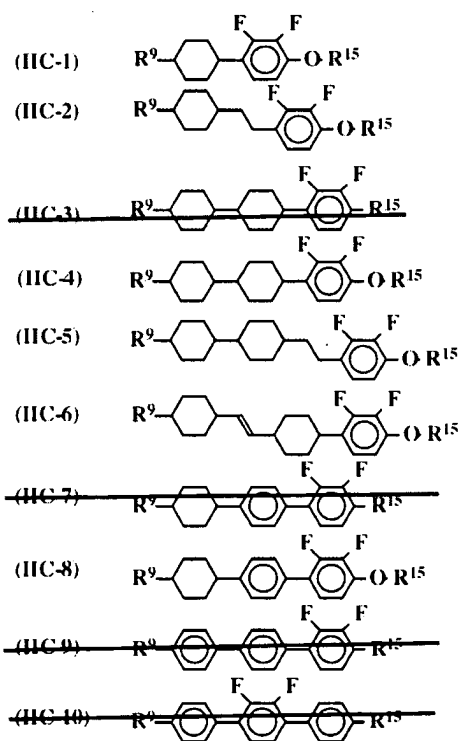


wherein  $R^5$  and  $R^7$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl

group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, ~~and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and~~

R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

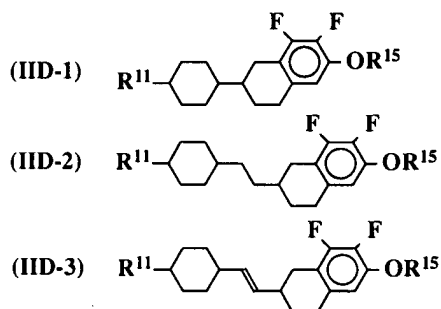
**Claim 6 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):



wherein R<sup>9</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said

alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO-, or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

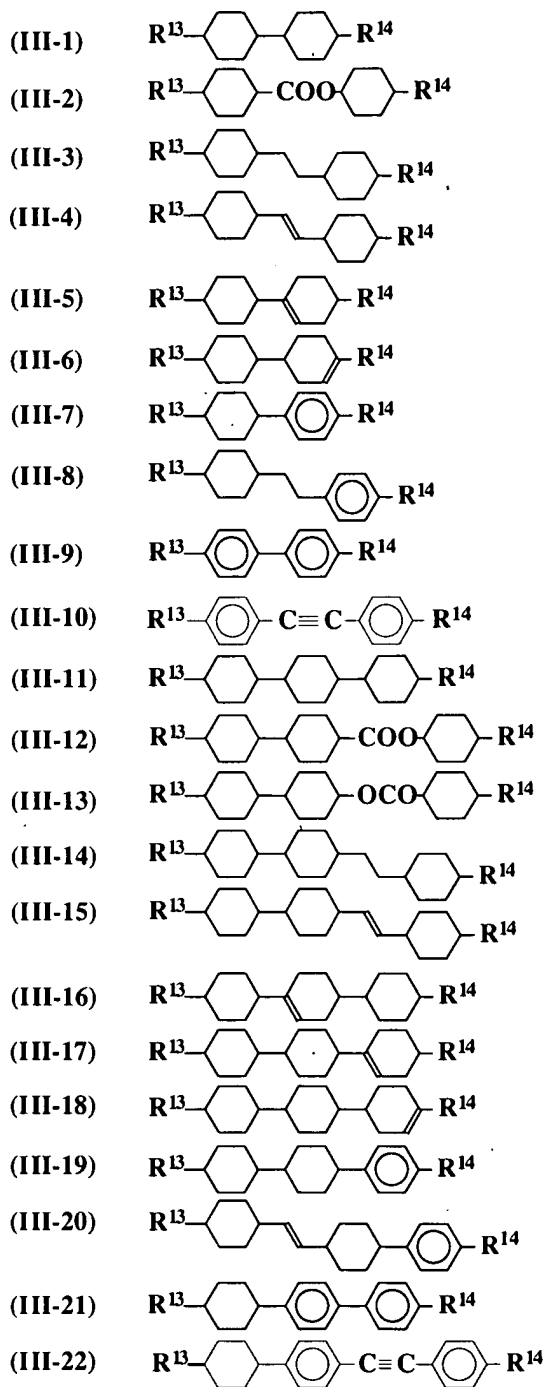
**Claim 7 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):



wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, ~~the substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group,~~ and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

**Claim 8 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):





wherein  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl

group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, ~~preferably, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group.~~

**Claim 9-11: (Canceled)**

**Claim 12 (Previously Presented):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 4, wherein the dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -6,

the nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature ( $T_{N-I}$ ) is within a range from 80 to 120°C,

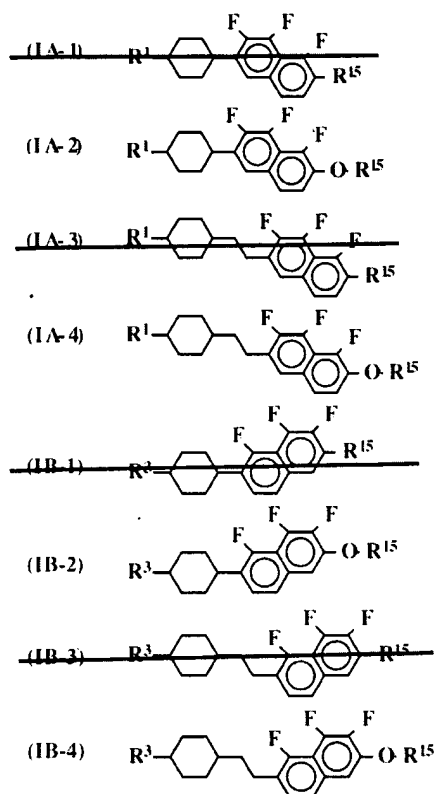
the refractive index anisotropy is within a range from 0.07 to 0.15, and

the viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less.

**Claim 13 (Previously Presented):** A liquid crystal display device for active matrix display, using the nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1.

**Claim 14 (Previously Presented):** A liquid crystal display device for VA mode, IPS mode or ECB mode, using the nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1.

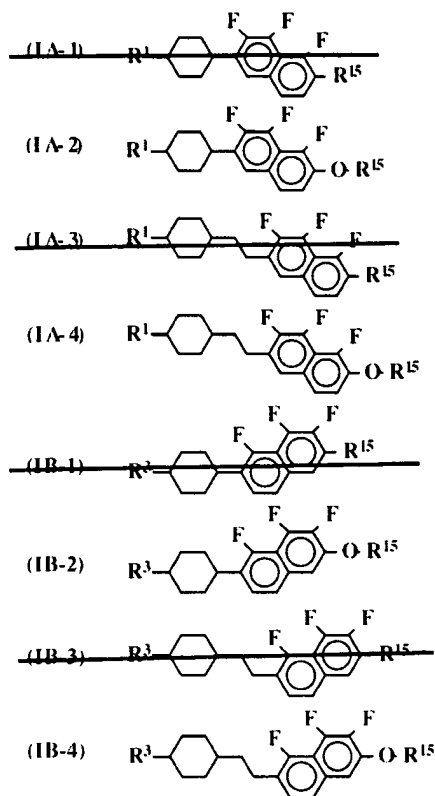
**Claim 15 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):



wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more  $\text{CH}_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-$  or  $-\text{COO}-$ , while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

$R^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

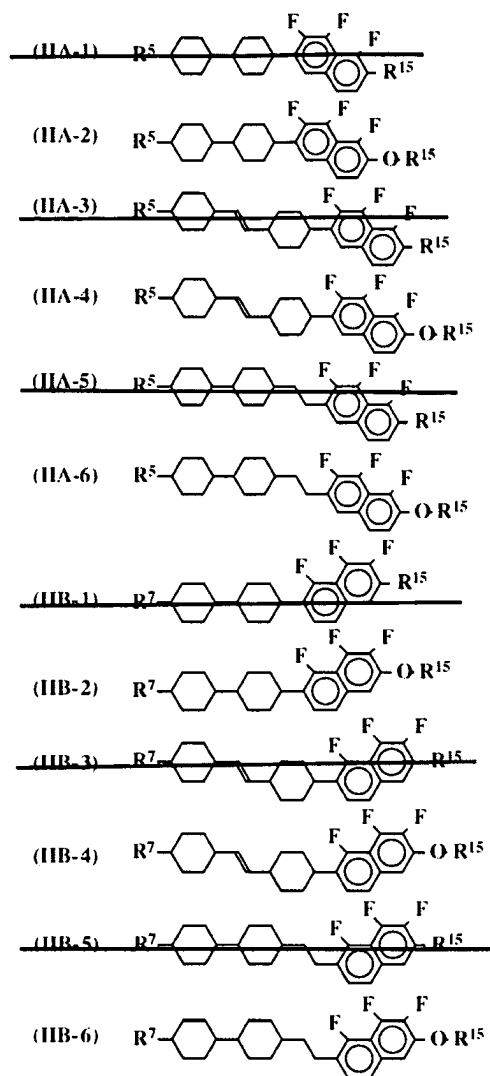
**Claim 16 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):



wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more  $\text{CH}_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-$  or  $-\text{COO}-$ , while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

$R^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

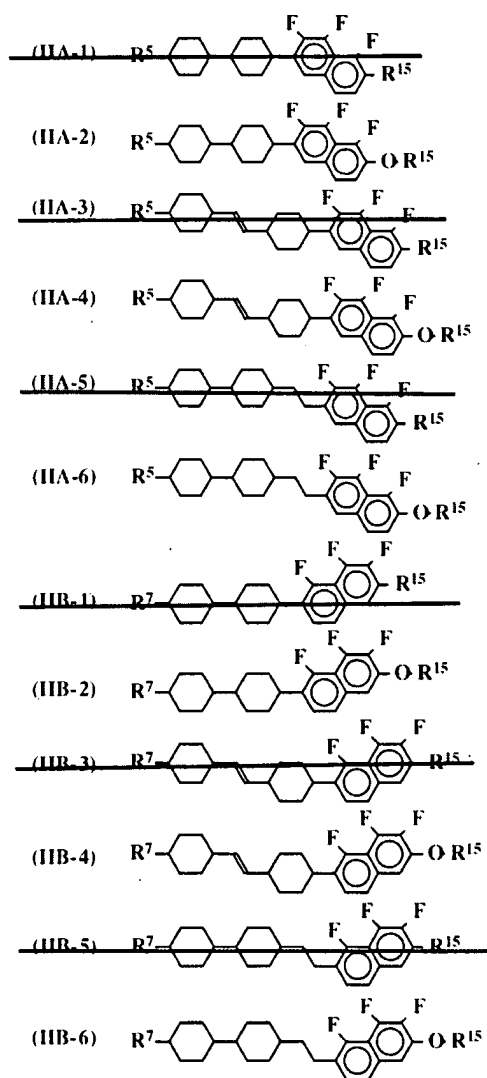
**Claim 17 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):



wherein  $R^5$  and  $R^7$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with  $-O-$ ,  $-CO-$  or  $-COO-$ , while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and

$R^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

**Claim 18 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

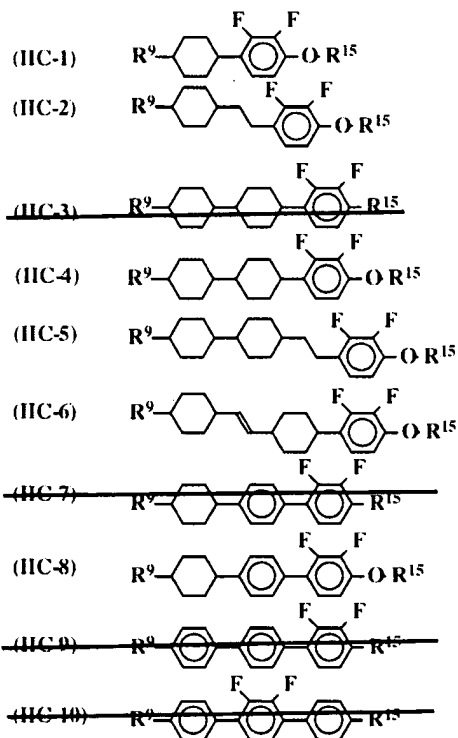


wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy

group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, ~~and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and~~

R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

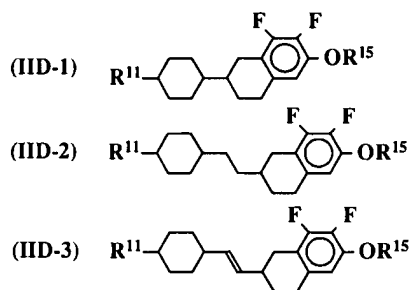
**Claim 19 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):



wherein R<sup>9</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO-,

or  $\text{-COO-}$ , while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and  $\text{R}^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

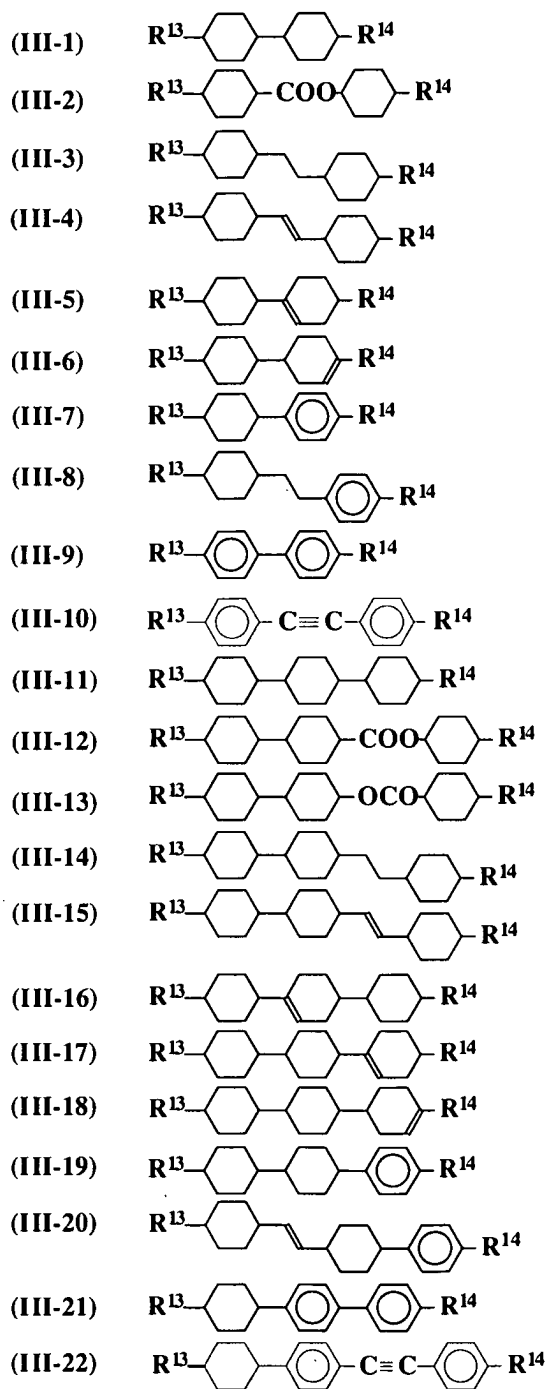
**Claim 20 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):



wherein  $\text{R}^{11}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $\text{CH}_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with  $\text{-O-}$ ,  $\text{-CO-}$  or  $\text{-COO-}$ , while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, ~~the substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group,~~ and  $\text{R}^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

**Claim 21 (Currently Amended):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):

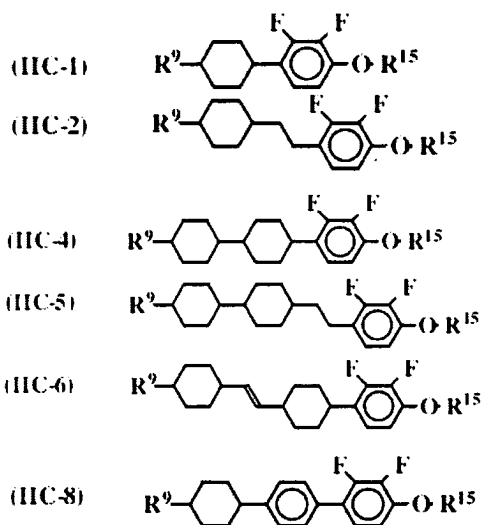




wherein  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl

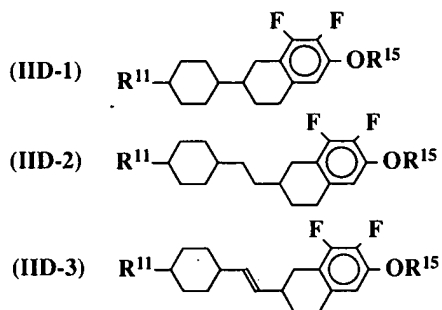
group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, ~~preferably, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group.~~

**Claim 22 (New):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):



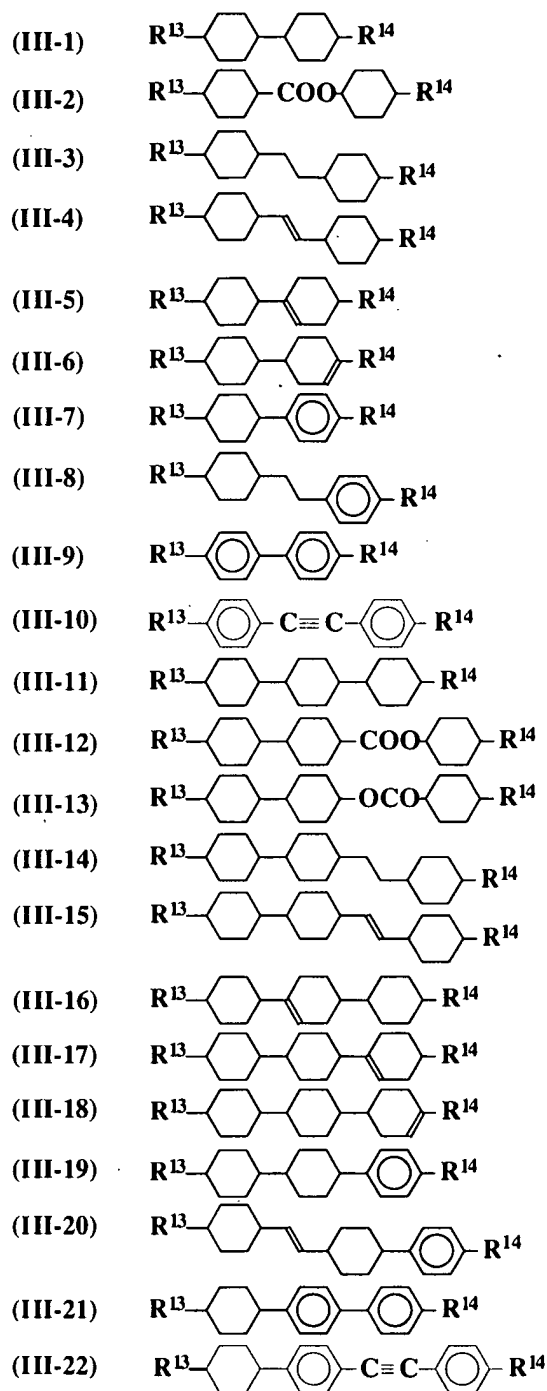
wherein R<sup>9</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO-, or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

**Claim 23 (New):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):



wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

**Claim 24 (New):** The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):



wherein  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl

group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms.